

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/797,960

Examiner

Rodney H. Bonck

Applicant(s)

GOCHENOUR ET AL.

Art Unit

3681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the proposed amendment filed February 20, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7,9,10,12,13,15-36 and 38-53.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

The following action is in response to the proposed supplemental amendment after-final received February 20, 2006. The examiner has approved entry of the proposed amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15-36, and 38-53 are allowed. Claims 1-7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15-21, 49, 52, 53, 22-33, 50, 51, 34-36, and 38-48 will be renumbered for printing as claims 1-49, respectively.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to show or render obvious a centrifugal clutch as defined in claim 1 wherein one of the movable plate and fixed plate includes a plurality of ramps that are engaged by the weights, the ramps include first and second ramp surfaces, and the return spring selectively has a generally disc-shaped configuration.

The art of record also fails to show or teach a centrifugal clutch as defined in claim 22 wherein the ramp plate includes a plurality of ramps that taper radially outward and away from the ramp plate at an increasing angle with respect to the ramp plate, the cover module further includes a return spring member configured to apply a return force against the movable ramp plate or the movable reaction plate to bias each of the roller

weights toward a pre-moved position, and wherein the cover module includes only one return spring.

The prior art of record fails to show or render obvious a centrifugal clutch as defined in claim 34 wherein at least one return spring member is positioned between the reaction plate and the second weight engaging plate, the return sprung member configured to apply a return force against the first weight engaging plate through the reaction member to bias each of the roller weights toward a pre-moved position against the effect of centrifugal force, and wherein one of the first and second weights engages plates including a plurality of ramps that are engaged by the roller weights.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Amendment

The amendment to claim 6 overcomes the objection set forth in the final rejection. Accordingly, the objection is withdrawn.

The amendment to claim 1 obviates the rejection under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph. Therefore, the rejection is withdrawn.

The claims as amended distinguish over the prior art as applied in the rejections under 35 USC 102(b) and 35 USC 103(a) in the final action. Accordingly, the rejections are withdrawn, and the claims are deemed allowable for the reasons set forth above.

Art Unit: 3681

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rodney H. Bonck whose telephone number is (571) 272-7089. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00AM - 3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles A. Marmor can be reached on (571) 272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Rodney H. Bonck
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3681

rhb
June 15, 2006